

Head Qrs. 114<sup>th</sup> N.Y.Vols.

Camp Sheridan Va

March 1<sup>st</sup> 1865

Dear Mother,

I *recieved* your very kind letter in due time and was very glad to hear from you. I do not get letters from you quite as regular as I used to, but I suppose you have enough to attend to without writing. As long as you can get Harrison to do it well. I used to like to have him do the most of the writing myself when he was here, but now I don't see any other way to do but to write.

We have had very fine weather for the past few days, but now the snow is all gone and it is raining which makes it very muddy and *disagreeable*, but we do not mind that as long as we are permitted to stay in our comfortable camp and do not have to be "*totering*" a knapsack through it. I think we are very lucky to stay in camp as long as we have been, we have not had to move but once in four months, the longest we have remained in one place since we have been in the service. But it is coming Spring now, or rather to day is the first day of spring and we probably will have to be a "digging out" before long.

General Sheridan left here day before yesterday morning at *at* the head of a large force of Cavalry, has gone up the Valley, it is supposed that he intends to meet with some other force, probably at Stanton or some other point up there. You probably will hear something from him before long. Fort Phil. would not go out with a Cavalry force for nothing, his force is variously estimated at from 12,000 to 18,000 of Good Cavalry.

The War news has been very good lately and I hope it will continue to be as good *untill* the "infernal machine" is wound up which I don't think will be long, for I cannot see how it can last a great while longer at the rate it is going on now. Major General Hancock is here and in command, his new Corps of Veterans are expected to come here.

The most of our corps is now in Savanah ~~now~~, and it is talked that we are a going to join them, but that is only a camp story. I wish they would send us down there. We have got a new Chaplain and a new *Chappel*, it is constructed of Logs and covered with a large canvass which makes quite a comfortable church. There will be preaching tomorrow night for the first time

in the 114<sup>th</sup> N.Y.Vols in a for nearly two years. I don't know as it is quite as long as that but now over six times since we have been in the service.

Well I think I have written all the news, so good night. Give my love to all.

Yours affctly,

J. F. Brand